

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08
FRB-03 INR-10 NSAE-00 SP-02 STR-07 TRSE-00 LAB-04
SIL-01 OMB-01 PM-05 H-01 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 SS-15
USIA-06 /091 W
-----128238 231035Z /21

R 230845Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY LISBON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4820
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA
USMISSION USNATO
DIA WASHDC
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER
COMUSFORAZ
USNMR SHAPE BRUSSELS BEL

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 LISBON 1350

USEEC

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3
TAGS: ELAB PO
SUBJECT: MOVE TO CREATE A PARRALLEL LABOR CONFEDERATION
FALLS FLAT

SUMMARY: AN UNEXPECTED ANNOUNCEMENT BY OFFICIALS OF THE
LABOR STUDIES CENTER (CES) THAT THEY WILL SEEK TO FORM A
NEW LABOR CONFEDERATION PRECIPITATED BITTER DENUNCIATIONS
FROM LEADERS OF THE PRO-SOCIALIST OPEN LETTER MOVEMENT AND
THE COMMUNIST-DOMINATED GENERAL WORKERS CONFEDERATION (CGTP).
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THE CES ACTION PUBLICLY UNDERSCORES DIVISION AMONG DEMOCRATIC
FORCES. END SUMMARY.

1. A FEB 16 ANNOUNCEMENT BY OFFICIALS OF THE ANTI-COMMUNIST
LABOR STUDIES CENTER THAT THEY WILL SEEK TO FORM A NATIONAL
DEMOCRATIC WORKERS CENTRAL HAS CAUSED CONSIDERABLE CON-
STERNATION IN THE DEMOCRATIC LABOR SECTOR. OPEN LETTER

AND SOCIALIST PARTY LEADERS HAVE DENOUNCED THE MOVE AS AN ILL-CONCEIVED ACTION WHICH WILL FURTHER DIVIDE AND WEAKEN DEMOCRATIC FORCES. THESE LEADERS CONTEND THAT ANY DECISION TO CREATE A NEW CONFEDERATION MUST BE MADE BY THE WORKERS THEMSELVES AND NOT BY A HANDFUL OF UNREPRESENTATIVE FUNCTIONARIES OF A LABOR SCHOOL.

2. THE CGTP WAS QUICK TO DENOUNCE THE CES ACTION AS AN ATTEMPT BY "IMPERIALIST AND RIGHTIST REACTIONARIES TO DIVIDE THE LABOR MOVEMENT." THE LEFTIST "DIARIO DE LISBOA" REFERRED TO CES AS HAVING "LINKS WITH THE ICFTU WHICH HAS TIES WITH THE AFL-CIO."

3. THE CES HEAD PELAGIO MADUREIRA MAINTAINS THAT HE STILL SERVES AS "LABOR ADVISOR" TO PRIME MINISTER SOARES DESPITE THE ABSENCE OF HIS NAME ON A RECENTLY PUBLISHED LIST OF SOARES'S ADVISORS AND RUMORS THAT HE HAD BEEN DUMPED FROM THE SOCIALIST LABOR HIERARCHY. UNTIL RECENTLY THE CES WAS THE PRINCIPAL CHANNEL FOR FINANCIAL AID TO DEMOCRATIC UNIONS CONTRIBUTED BY THE ICFTU, INTERNATIONAL TRADE SECRETARIATS, THE GERMAN FRIEDRICH EBERT FOUNDATION AND VARIOUS EUROPEAN NATIONAL LABOR CENTERS AND SOCIALIST PARTIES. SOCIALISTS TELL US THAT THE INEFFECTIVENESS OF THE CES AND OF MADUREIRA HIMSELF IN THE CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE COMMUNIST INTERSINDICAL AND LATER THE CGTP, WAS PARTIALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE FORMATION BY THE

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SOCIALISTS OF THE JOSE FONTANA FOUNDATION WHICH IS NOW THE EXCLUSIVE RECIPIENT OF FREDRICH EBERT MONIES AND IS ALSO RECOGNIZED BY THE ICFTU AND MOST TRADE SECRETARIATS AS THE PRINCIPAL CONDUIT FOR FINANCIAL AID AND SUPPORT ASSISTANCE. THE GUIDING LIGHTS OF JOSE FONTANA ARE LABOR MINISTER MALDONADO GONELHA AND PS INTERNATIONAL SECRETARY RUI MATEUS.

4. DURING A FEB 17 CONVERSATION WITH THE LABOR ATTACHE, MADUREIRA SAID THAT THE CES OBJECTIVE IN ANNOUNCING THE FORMATION OF A NEW CONFEDERATION AT THIS TIME WAS TO FORCE THE OPEN LETTER MOVEMENT TO COMMIT ITSELF TO THE CREATION OF A VIABLE COMPETITOR TO THE CGTP. THIS WAS A STEP THAT HE AND HIS CES COLLEAGUES WOULD HAVE PREFERRED TO DELAY UNTIL SPRING WHEN "CES EFFORTS TO ALIGN CIVIL CONSTRUCTION AND HOTEL UNIONS IN THE NORTH WITH THE NEW NATIONAL CHEMICAL WORKERS FEDERATION WOULD HAVE BEEN ACHIEVED." HOWEVER, MADUREIRA SAID, HE FEARED THAT THE OPEN LETTER PLENARY MEETING TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED FOR LATER THIS MONTH WOULD NOT RESULT IN THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A PARALLEL CONFEDERATION AND THIS, HE CLAIMS, FORCED CES TO MOVE PREMATURELY. IF OPEN LETTER NOW FAILS TO MOVE TOWARD CONFEDERATION, MADUREIRA ADMITTED, THE CES GAMBIT WILL HAVE FAILED;

THE UNIONS HE CLAIMS FOR CES CANNOT PROCEED WITHOUT THE
TWENTY-FOUR REMAINING OPEN LETTER UNIONS.

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R 230845Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY LISBON
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5. MADUREIRA WAS VERY CRITICAL OF MALDONADO AND MATEUS.
HE SAID THAT MALDONADO IS INCAPABLE OF DEFINING A VIABLE
SOCIALIST LABOR POLICY AND WAS BEING UNDULY INFLUENCED
BY MATEUS, WHO HAS NO UNDERSTANDING OF PORTUGUESE
WORKERS. MADUREIRA TOLD THE LABATT THAT MATEUS HAD
RECENTLY SENT A LETTER TO THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY
OF SWEDEN INFORMING THE SWEDES THAT MADUREIRA AND THE
CES WERE OUT OF THE PICTURE AND THAT HENCEFORTH ANY
SWEDISH MONIES EARMARKED FOR DEMOCRATIC UNIONS IN
PORTUGAL SHOULD BE CHanneled THROUGH JOSE FONTANA.
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SUSPICION THAT MATEUS SENT SIMILAR LETTERS TO POLITICAL AND LABOR ORGANIZATIONS ELSEWHERE IN EUROPE, PROMPTED MADUREIRA TO GO TO GENEVA LAST WEEK TO MEET WITH TRADE SECRETARIAT LEADERS TO "PUT THINGS STRAIGHT." MADEUREIRA SAID THAT THE TRADE SECRETARIATS ASSURED HIM OF THEIR CONTINUED SUPPORT FOR CES.

6. COMMENT: IT IS DIFFICULT TO BELIEVE THAT MADUREIRA RECEIVED SUCH ASSURANCES IN GENEVA. LABATT CONVERSATIONS WITH THE GENERAL SECRETARIES OF THE TEXTILE, TEACHER AND POSTAL TELEGRAPH AND TELEPHONE SECRETARIATS AND WITH OFFICIALS OF THE ICFTU IN BRUSSELS LAST MONTH, REVEALED A DEEPSEATED FRUSTRATION WITH THE SITUATION IN PORTUGAL AND DISAPPOINTMENT WITH THE MADUREIRA/CES PERFORMANCE. AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED, MADUREIRA'S INFLUENCE IN SOCIALIST LABOR CIRCLES HAS DECLINED SIGNIFICANTLY IN RECENT MONTHS. THE PRECIPITOUS TIMING OF THE CES ANNOUNCEMENT HAS PUBLICLY UNDERSCORED WEAKNESSES AND DIVISIONS AMONG DEMOCRATIC LABOR FORCES.

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Message Attributes

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Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Review Media Identifier:
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Review Release Event: n/a
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Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
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Subject: MOVE TO CREATE A PARRALLEL LABOR CONFEDERATION FALLS FLAT SUMMARY: AN UNEXPECTED ANNOUNCEMENT BY OFFICIALS
TAGS: ELAB, PO
To: STATE
Type: TE
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Review Markings:
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